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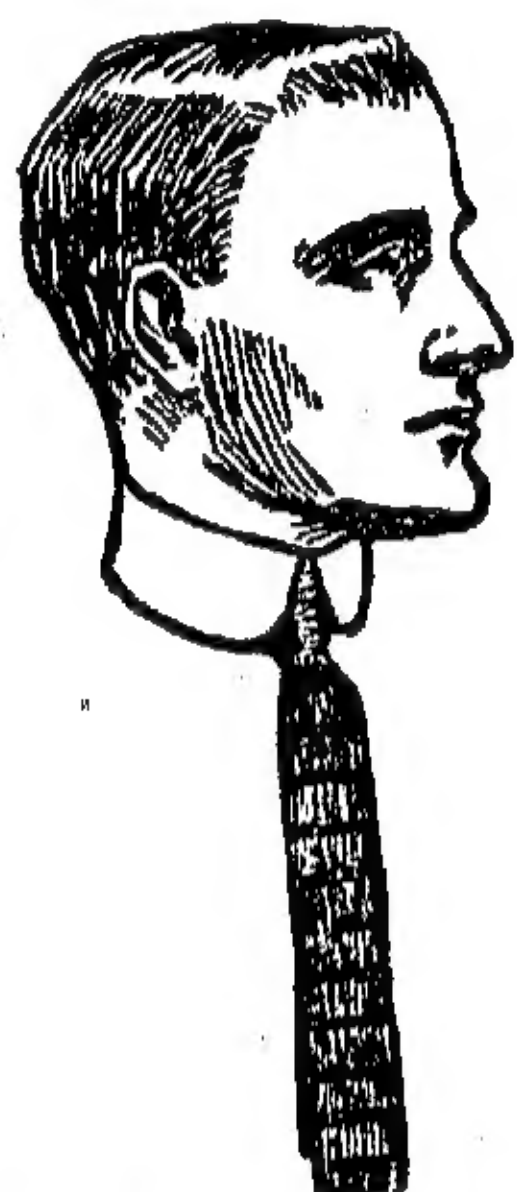
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REQUISITIONED SHIPS.
DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENT.
RIGHTS OF OWNERS AND
CHARTERERS.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt delivered a considered judgment recently in a case which raised an important question as to the principle on which payments by the Admiralty for hire of requisitioned vessels should be distributed between the owners and the charterers.

The plaintiffs, the Chinese Engineering and Steaming Company (Limited), by three charterparties dated July 30th, 1913, December 24th, 1913, and July 11th, 1914, chartered three steamers, the *Albana*, the *Wimbledon*, and the *Tungshan*, from the defendants, Messrs. Sale & Co., for periods of five years from the dates of delivery of the ships. The *Albana* was delivered to the plaintiffs on December 10th, 1913; the *Wimbledon* on May 25th, 1914, and the *Tungshan* on March 9th, 1915. The ships were to be employed between ports in East Asia, and were to be redelivered at Chinwangtao, Shanghai, or Hongkong at charterers' option, or to the insurance of the steamers and maintain them in a thoroughly efficient state. The charterparty hire for the *Albana* was £1,170 a month, the *Wimbledon* £1,158 7s., and the *Tungshan* £1,129 10s. 6d.

The Admiralty requisitioned all three steamers. The *Albana* was requisitioned on July 6th, 1915. She was released by the Admiralty on September 22nd, 1915, and requisitioned again on December 18th, 1916. The Admiralty hire being £1,983 17s. a month. The *Wimbledon* was requisitioned on August 7th, 1914. She was released on December 24th, 1914, and again requisitioned on January 28th, 1915. The Admiralty hire being £2,071 17s. a month. The *Tungshan* was requisitioned on January 21st, 1915. The Admiralty hire being £2,199 8s. a month. She was sunk in the Mediterranean by a submarine, May 15th, 1917. The other two ships were still in requisition.

The Admiralty form of charterparty provided that the steamers were to be employed between such ports in any part of the world as the Admiralty might direct, and that the steamers should be redelivered to the owners at any United Kingdom coal port; that the owners should pay (inter alia) for the insurance of the ship; and that the Admiralty should not be liable if the steamer should be lost or damaged by sea risk.

The plaintiffs claimed from the defendants £25,310, the balance of the sums received by the defendants from the Admiralty for the three steamers, and also a declaration that they were entitled to the sums receivable by the defendants from the Admiralty, less the charterparty hire.

The defendants by their defence said that the charterparties were dissolved by the requisitioning, and alternatively they counterclaimed for a declaration that the compensation to be received from the Admiralty was divisible between the plaintiffs and the defendants according to their respective rights and interests.

Evidence was given that the amount payable by the owners for disbursements, especially for the insurance of the ships, when employed by the Admiralty, was very much greater than the amount payable by them when the ships were employed under the charterparties to the plaintiffs between East Asiatic ports.

Mr. F. D. MacKinnon, K.C., and Mr. W. N. Raftery appeared for the plaintiffs; Sir John Simon, K.C., Mr. Roche, K.C., and Mr. R. A. Wright for the defendants.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt in his judgment, said:—It is essential to bear in mind the nature of the payment which the Admiralty has made, namely, that it is hire for the use of the vessels monthly. The charterers, though they had no possession of these ships under their charterparty, had a valuable contractual interest in their services, for the destruction of which the Crown might justly make compensation. But I have no fund of that kind to deal with, and if the result of the action of the Government has been to destroy the charterparties, they have destroyed them without providing for compensation to the charterers. They have ignored them, and have put themselves in the position of compulsory charterers direct from the owners, to whom in that case the hire they pay would belong. If, however, the charterers are not destroyed, the charterers are bound to continue to pay the hire to the owners, and are entitled as between them and the owners to the use of the vessels, and, as pointed out by Lord Loreburn in the *Tamplin* case (32 *The Times* Law Reports, 677; [1914] 2 A.C. 639), the owners must account for any hire received by them for such use.

It is for these reasons that to determine the ownership of the fund in dispute it is necessary to see whether the action of the Government has destroyed the charterparties by virtue of what one may briefly refer to as the doctrine in *Paradine v. Jane* (Allonby, 26), as developed by modern cases.

That doctrine, as a general rule of the law of contracts, must apply to time charters as to other contracts. This was pointed out by my brother Atkin in *Lord v. Royal Baking Soda Association* (33 *The Times* Law Reports, 300). But there are many kinds of events and circumstances which in different conditions have been held to call the rule into operation. The simplest case of all is where there has been destruction of specific subject matter. There is, however, a very particular and special instance of its application, and that is where all that has happened is delay, but delay certain to be so prolonged as to destroy the possibility of performance of the contract as at all contemplated.

Lord Loreburn in the *Tamplin* case (supra) clearly held that if the intervention was bona fide to destroy the contract, the result followed notwithstanding that the event leading to the delay is one the occurrence of which is prevented by an exceptions clause from giving rise to a

claim for breach of contract. Lord Loreburn, Haldane, and Atkinson were clearly of that opinion in the *Tamplin* case (supra).

In these circumstances the practical question which I have to consider is whether the requisitioning of these steamers, or any one of them, portended when made, or has at any time up to the date of this case, portended for I am authorized by the agreement of the parties so to extend my inquiry—that the Government user would continue for substantially the remainder of the charter period. I use the words of Lord Loreburn in the *Tamplin* case (supra).

Now on the question of time there was evidence before me that the volume of requisitioning has been rapidly growing, and that to-day practically the whole of that class of British vessels with which this case is concerned are under requisition, so that there is very little chance of any of these ships being released during the war. Evidence was also given of statements made in Parliament on behalf of the Ministry confirming that view, and it was further suggested that requisitioning, or at least control, of shipping on the same scale would probably continue after the war. But the earliest of these charters, to determine, namely, that of the *Albana*, will not expire until December, 1918, and I cannot assume that the war will last till then, nor can I assume that the Government will interfere with these ships after the return of peace. It is true that the ships have been taken for an indefinite time, and that no one can say that this state of affairs will terminate before the charters would have expired even in the case of the *Albana*, which would have expired, had she not been sunk, till March, 1920. But I do not think that I am at liberty to look at it in that way. I must approach it as Lord Loreburn did when he said that it must be "established" that the interference would last substantially to the end of the charter period. On this part of the case I come to the conclusion that none of these charterparties has come to an end.

The question remains whether the charterers are entitled to the whole of the Admiralty hire or whether they must share it with the owners. In this case the use of the vessels by the Admiralty is not such as the charterers could have enjoyed themselves under their charterparties or conferred on others by sub-charter. If that had been the case the Admiralty hire would have been paid for something which it lay exclusively in the hands of the charterers to enjoy or transfer without any right in the owners to object. The compulsory charter to the Admiralty would have been equivalent to a compulsory sub-charter taking effect entirely out of the charterers' interest, and the charterers would have had to be regarded as solely entitled to the position of owners for the purposes of the Admiralty charterparty, and as such solely entitled to the Admiralty hire. Here, however, the Admiralty hire is being paid partly for the use of the vessels to which the charterers were not entitled to put them in return for the hire which they pay to the owners. Therefore, the Admiralty charter takes effect partly out of the interests of the charterers and partly out of that of the owners. In these circumstances the Admiralty hire must clearly be divided between the two, as was pointed out by Lord Parker in the *Tamplin* case.

THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVISION.

It was agreed that the figures were to be referred, but I think that I ought to give some guidance as to the principle to be followed. The evidence before me showed that the conditions of the Admiralty charter were more onerous to the owner, involving him in higher payments for insurance and other disbursements, than the conditions of the plaintiffs' charters, and this certainly is one element to be considered. I understood Mr. MacKinnon, for the charterers, to suggest that the owners should be compensated for any extra expense of this kind, and that the charterers should take the balance. I do not think that this is correct, nor, if the Admiralty hire were lower than it happens to be in this case, would it always be just to the charterers. I think a proportional division must be made in every case even where the Admiralty hire is less than the hire paid by the time charterers. However small it is, it forms the only fund out of which both parties must be paid for the invasion of their respective rights and interests, and paid *pro rata* in the proper proportions. This proportion must be found by ascertaining as fairly as possible, first, what the owners could properly demand monthly for altering the charter to the Admiralty form, and, secondly, what the charterers could properly demand monthly for the loss of the benefit of the charter.

The first sum should not only include what is necessary to indemnify the owners against extra expense, but also something to represent what they might reasonably have asked for consenting to alter the charter at all. If they had been free they could have bargained for that. The second sum must not include anything for special loss possibly inflicted upon the charterers by reason of dislocation of the trade for which they happened in fact to require the ships, but must be fixed on the basis of the value of the ships' services pursuant to the time charters in the tonnage market. The ratio between the two sums will be the ratio in which the Admiralty hire will be divided. As that hire must be treated as fixed on the day of the requisitioning the two sums forming the ratio must be calculated with reference to the values ruling on that same day. Further, they must be calculated on the footing that an indefinite time but substantially before the expiration of the time charters. This is because the prospective length of the interruption may possibly have a bearing even on the rate per month which the respective parties may be regarded as justly demanding. There will be liberty to apply as to the form of the reference and of the declarations. The plaintiffs to have the costs of the claim, and the defendants the costs of the counter-claim.

THE EXPANSION OF PRUSSIA

V.

(BY W. W. TARN.)

Bismarck's three wars were part of one connected policy. We shall not, however, touch on the complicated origins of the war of 1870, which forms, strictly speaking, no part of the expansion of Prussia, but we shall give a slight sketch of Bismarck's activities from 1863 to 1866. The spirit of the old Prussia had taken on a subtler shape, but it was the same spirit.

In 1862, when Bismarck became Minister President of Prussia, he said to Disraeli: "My first care will be . . . to reorganise the army. When the army has been brought to such a state as to command respect, then I will take the first opportunity to declare war with Austria." His consistent policy was to make Prussia the first state in Germany and drive out Austria. He was called to power to aid the King, William I., as Parliament opposed, he dismissed it year by year and governed without. His opening came in 1863 over Schleswig-Holstein. There had long been a Schleswig-Holstein question; but in 1863 it became acute.

The matter stood somewhat thus. The two Duchies were part of Denmark, but were ruled by the King of Denmark. Holstein was German, and was a member of the German Confederation; Schleswig was largely Danish, and was not. It was claimed in Germany, and denied in Denmark, that by ancient charters and customs the two must always be ruled by the same man, and must not be incorporated with Denmark; the question is still disputed. Frederick VII. of Denmark was likely to die childless, and a mark was likely to die childless, and a conference of the Powers held at London in 1862 had agreed upon the whole. Glücksburg as his successor to the whole. But Christian claimed through the female line; this was valid for Denmark, but it was not valid in Germany, where the Duchies were under Salic law, in which case Frederick, Duke of Augustenburg, was heir. Prussia and Austria were parties to the London Protocol, but the German Confederation and Augustenburg were not. The Duke's father had, however, executed a sort of renunciation of his rights, but Augustenburg declared this did not bind himself. In these circumstances Frederick VII. just before he died, promulgated a new Constitution, practically incorporating Schleswig with Denmark. Christian succeeded, and signed the Constitution, though the Ambassadors of the Powers warned him that he could expect no support. Augustenburg at once claimed the Duchies; he was supported by William I., Austria and Germany generally, but not by Bismarck. Bismarck had no fancy for an independent Schleswig-Holstein. He had two things firmly in mind; one was to have the Duchies, so that the Kiel canal could be cut through Prussian soil. He took his stand on the London Protocol of 1862, and declared that the November Constitution was a branch of that treaty, which Prussia must defend; he thought this must lead to war, and that war would enable him to tear up the London Protocol. He secured the agreement of Austria to the defence of his ulterior object; and the two Powers, sent Christian an ultimatum, demanding the repeal of the November Constitution by a given date. There was, however, always the chance that Christian might yield and avoid war. Bismarck later told Bunsen that he had safeguarded that point by leading the Danes to think that England would support them; but he took more effectual precautions than that. He made it impossible for Denmark to agree, and he wished; for Christian could not repeal the Constitution without the Bismarck, and Bismarck had fixed his date in the ultimatum earlier than the earliest day on which the new Rigsraad could meet. He thus got his war; and by the peace of Vienna Denmark ceded the two Duchies and Lauenburg, which were jointly occupied by Prussia and Austria.

Bismarck meant to have the Duchies. Austria desired them to be an independent member of the Confederation under Augustenburg. Bismarck pretended to agree to this on terms; the terms are interesting, as one of the first expositions of the German doctrine of annexation to annex a country. Kiel was to be a Prussian port; the canal to be made by, and belong to, Prussia; Prussia to control the posts, telegraphs and railways; the army to be organised on the Prussian model, and the oath to the King of Prussia; the Duchies to join the Prussian Customs Union. Austria of course refused, as she occupied Kiel. But Bismarck did not want war at the moment; for German opinion was with Austria, believing that she stood for Augustenburg and justice. So a compromise was effected. Bismarck had already managed to discredit Augustenburg by giving to the Press a version of a private interview he had had with the Duke, in which the latter was made to say that he had never asked Prussia for help and could have done very well without it; the Duke denied that he had said this, but the mud stuck. Bismarck now managed to discredit Austria in turn in German eyes by his compromise with her (treaty of Gastein, 14th August, 1865); under this Prussia annexed Lauenburg for a cash payment, and it was agreed that Prussia should administer Schleswig and Austria Holstein. This turned public opinion against Austria as Bismarck intended; after all, she seemed to be no better than Prussia.

He had now manoeuvred Austria into the position he desired, and he dropped the mask. He found fault with the Austrian administration of Holstein, which formed a pleasant contrast to the Prussian administration of Schleswig; and when Austria replied that she could not allow Prussia to interfere in Holstein, he answered that "he must consider that henceforth the relations of the two Powers had lost their intimate character." Austria now saw that war was inevitable and began to arm.

BACK FROM RUSSIA.

HOPEFUL VIEW OF LABOUR DELEGATES.

A complimentary dinner was given at the House of Commons to Mr. James O'Grady, M.P., Lieutenant Sanders, and Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., the Labour delegation to Russia, on the occasion of their return to England. Mr. Hodge, M.P., the Minister for Labour, was in the chair.

In proposing the toast of "The Guests of the Evening," the Chairman said they had already sent to Russia the greetings of the labour movement in this country on the great miracle that had happened there. None of them ever anticipated that Russian freedom would have been gained so speedily and with so little bloodshed. We, the oldest democracy in the world, hailed wholeheartedly and with every good wish the freedom they had won, and wished that the Russians would soon consolidate it. (Cheers.)

Mr. O'Grady, in replying, said that the delegation which went to Russia had no mandate, except from the British Government, to express to the Russian people generally the unanimous greetings of the British people, and their hopes and congratulations on the final success of the revolution. While they were carrying that message they were told to do all they could to make the position of the British workers understood to the Russian people. In all the cities that they visited, and among the great Russian army, they were enthusiastically received and welcomed. (Cheers.) When they reached Petrograd they went to the people who represented the Russian democracy, and got into contact with the Workmen and Soldiers' Council. They told them of the four millions of a volunteer army which had been created, of the efforts of the working men in munition factories, and what the women were doing. They told them, also, that whatever the wars of the past might have been, this war was not a capitalist's war. He begged of them not to take a pessimistic view of things. It helped no one, least of all the great souls that were in the Provisional Government and were directing their country along the paths of honour and duty. The greatest help this country could render was to back those great souls in the work they were doing for the liberties of the world. (Cheers.)

The delegation spent 10 days with the Armies, and the opinion they formed was that let the conditions and the circumstances be what they may the Armies were not going to have a separate peace. (Cheers.) He had no shadow of doubt in his mind that Russia and her soldiers could and would be able this year to play an effective part by means of an offensive to bring the war to a close. (Hear, hear.) In this great struggle Russia held the key of the situation. This country had got to back them not merely with money and material, but by showing we had faith in them. He hoped their mission would have done good. He believed it had done some good. They went out with the best intentions; they did clean, good work; and he should be happy to know that that work had contributed to the success of the Russian people, and to the happiness of the Russian nation. (Cheers.)

Lieutenant Sanders said he came back from Russia feeling that that great people, unspoiled by tyranny, full of intelligence, and filled with an ability which they had never been allowed to use, would in a short time show not only that they could organize processions, by hundreds of thousands of people to celebrate the death of their revolutionary martyrs, but would be able to reorganize their great Army which had fought finer than any of the Allied Armies, seeing that had fought without arms, for their great ideals of liberty and not for a Tsar. It had been a political Revolution, and the Mission was convinced that the Russian soldiers would yet play their part all along the line. (Cheers.)

Mr. Thorne said the liberty which the Russian people had gained would be used in the best interests of the Allies. The delegation told the Russian democracy straight what the position of the working classes in this country was—that there must be no peace until the Germans were cleared out of France, and Belgium, and Serbia, and all the places they had invaded, and had made reparations for the destruction they had done to our mercantile marine and by air raids.

What the people of this country wanted to know was about the military situation. He could tell them, being firmly convinced of it, that the Russian soldiers would play their part and would have no German domination. (Cheers.) Replying to the toast of "Russia," which had been proposed by Mr. G. H. Roberts (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade), Mr. M. C. Nabokoff (Russian Minister Plenipotentiary) said that when Russia talked of no annexations and no indemnities she meant that peace would not be made, for instance, in Berlin or Vienna, as after the wars of the 19th century, but that peace hereafter would have to be made by men representing the democracies. The principles of the 18th and 19th centuries would be thrown into the waste-paper basket, and international relations would have to be put on a different basis. He believed that the Labour delegation had helped Russia to realize the truth, and it was his fervent hope that the British nation would help them to work out the establishment of those principles, especially the constructive work which were going to be carried out in the 20th century. (Cheers.)

SPECIAL U-BOAT DEPARTMENT IN FRANCE.

A decree which has been published transfers the French anti-submarine defensive service from the Ministry of Marine to a Submarine War Department, which will combine all the services assisting in the defence against submarines, and will be given ample facilities and powers and a large measure of autonomy.

Rear-Admiral Morvieux du Vignaux will have control of the new Submarine War Department.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE IRATE UNDERGRAD.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

Sir,—It is amusing to read the "Protest" appearing in your correspondence column *supra* the pseudonym "Undergrad."

"Undergrad's" argument as to why University students should not be called schoolboys at once goes to show that logic is not one of the subjects which cause him to burn his midnight oil. We will pass over his absolutely puerile talk about sports. He seems to think that all schoolboys are mountbanks.

As regards some of the students being "fathers" and "independent property men," we also have them at Queen's College and other local schools; do they thereby cease to be schoolboys? In Webster's International Dictionary, latest edition, "Student" is defined as "a scholar, especially one who attends a school, etc." Surely one who attends a school, and is a boy, must be termed "schoolboy," unless "Undergrad" wishes us to call the students schoolmen. "Undergrad's" personation about grammar is superb. It can only emanate from the brain of an "Undergrad" who attempts to write to a paper. What shall we say about his use of the word "clapped"? It is uproarious. Yours, etc.,

LAUGHTER.

Hongkong, August 8th, 1917.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

Sir,—I venture to hope that your correspondent "Undergrad" will not allow his protest to remain where it is. Nothing but a vast public meeting can possibly wipe out the "unpardonable offence." "Undergrad" must, of course, occupy the chair at such meeting, and, if he is not equal to it, I shall be glad to supply him with a rousing speech. The meeting is sure to be crowded out, and overflow meetings will have to be held. Professor Middleton Smith, I am confident, would render valuable assistance at such overflow, by giving his lecture: "Submarines, or what I think of Wei Hei-Wai." Professor Warren would also oblige with his lecture "Colour, or life in a Bungalow in the rainy season." To help matters in the big meeting while the audience is assembling, I am prepared to loan my gramophone (20 double-sided records). Then the progeny of the undergraduates who are fathers (sic) might parade the town, and, if their little throats (or lungs) will stand it, might sing "University of our Fathers" at the meeting. This would make the protest more emphatic. (Watson's, I feel sure, would provide throat jujubes and chest protectors free.) Of course a list of the unfulfilled engagements of the tennis, and (especially) football clubs of the University would be suppressed, as only schoolboy excuses operated in their cancellation. As a member of the Police Reserve I would gladly arrange for a number of my colleagues to be present to eject any Editor (local or otherwise) who might be tempted to attend the meeting and air his views on English spelling and grammar.—Yours, etc.,

BONHAM.

Hongkong, August 8th, 1917.

WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

Sir,—We notice that an attractive advertisement appears every other day in your paper appealing for subscriptions to the War Savings Association. Whilst we have no objection to make, we should like to make it generally known that we do not take any credit for the same, nor are the appeals drawn up by us or put in your paper with our knowledge or at our instructions, as seems popularly to be supposed.

We shall feel obliged if you will kindly publish this letter in your next issue.—Yours faithfully,

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.
(Hon. Secretaries and Treasurers).

[The appeals are issued by a patriotic reader of our paper, by special arrangement with us, as was the case in regard to the Exchequer Bond advertisements which appeared last year.—Ed., H.D.P.]

CLAIM AGAINST SHANGHAI INSURANCE COMPANY.

SEQUEL TO FIRE AT KONGMOON.

At the Hongkong Summary Court yesterday, the Yeung Fong firm claimed from the Shanghai Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Ltd., the sum of \$800, being the loss sustained by plaintiffs under a policy of fire insurance upon a house belonging to the plaintiffs, and insured with the defendants under date March 8th, 1916.

Mr. C. G. Albaster (instructed by Mr. Leo d'Almada) was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Eldon Potter (instructed by Mr. Preston) represented the Insurance Co.

Mr. Albaster, in opening the case, said the defence was that it was provided by Clause 3 (c) of the Policy of Insurance that the said policy should not under any circumstances cover loss or damage by fire occasioned by, or in consequence of, rebellion, insurrection, riot, civil commotion, hostilities or any military or usurped power whatsoever. The defendants admit that on the 20th of April, 1916, the plaintiff's house was destroyed by fire, but say that the fire was occasioned by or in consequence of rebellion, insurrection, riot, civil commotion, hostilities or a military or usurped power. Counsel went on to say that the facts were as follows:—On April 18th, 1916, an attack was made by the troops in Kongmoon. Lung Chai-kwong's forces were in Kongmoon and the Republican army was attacking them. The attackers, in the first instance, gained the upper hand, but the defenders were later reinforced, and they drove them away again. The whole of the disturbances, whatever they were, had subsided by the forenoon of April 20th. No fire took place during any of these disturbances, certainly not the fire with which they were concerned. As one might have expected, at this period the shops in the streets were closed and barred, and people remained as much as possible indoors. On the evening of April 20th, there being no electric light, an assistant in a barber's shop lit a lamp and that lamp fell down, blazed up and set fire to the floor of the shop and to the surrounding furniture, and eventually the surrounding premises became involved. The barber was at the back of the shop, which was closed, and the *fuki* who had lit the lamp called out to the barber. The latter ran into that part of the shop where the lamp was and found that it was blazing. He tried to extinguish the flames, but was not successful. Therefore, he opened the shop and ran into the street and raised an alarm. The fire spread and burned down a number of houses, including the plaintiffs'. After that it seemed to him (Counsel) that there was no question as to how the fire was caused, and the question of insurrection or civil commotion did not arise. As we might expect, an enquiry was held by the Chamber of Commerce, and at least one Company had paid claims. The defendant Company had refused to pay anything.

Mr. Potter here remarked that a sum of over \$20,000 was involved in connection with the fire referred to, and fourteen insurance companies were concerned. The defendant Company were contesting the case merely to seek information. They had not even asked for security for costs, which they could have done. It must not be thought that the Company desired to evade its liabilities, but it was obviously of great importance to the Company and the other insurance Companies involved to know exactly how they stood. He thought it was obvious that in the present disturbed state of China no insurance Company, with a business manager, would dream of insuring on an ordinary premium. Therefore, it was a matter of great importance to the Companies, and that was the reason why the defendant Company was fighting. The policy \$800 was nothing, but the principle involved was a very important one.

The Judge reminded Mr. Potter that a number of British Companies were involved in the San Francisco earthquake, and they had to pay all the claims. Mr. Potter said he did not think the San Francisco earthquake could be compared with the condition of China at the time of the rebellion. He did not think any insurance Company would cover the risks of China with an ordinary premium, and without any exceptions.

The Chinese manager of the Kongmoon Electric Company said that the fire was caused by the overturning of a lamp. It could not have been caused by the rebels, as all the troops had left Kongmoon in the morning, whereas the fire took place in the evening.

The barber, at whose shop it is alleged the fire broke out, also stated that it was caused by his *fuki* dropping a kerosene oil lamp, which he had asked him to hang up, as the electric current had been cut off.

Cross-examined by Mr. Potter this witness said he was unable to find the *fuki* now. He had run away into the country so soon as he dropped the lamp.

The hearing was adjourned.

HONGKONG'S WATER SUPPLY

The report of the Water Authority for the month ended August 1st shows that on that date the City and Hill district reservoirs contained 1,279.09 million gallons, as compared with 788.78 million gallons on the same date last year. The consumption during July in this district was 183.75 million gallons by an estimated population of 268,919, or an average consumption per head per day of 22 gallons. In the same month last year an estimated population of 265,219 consumed 199.35 million gallons of water, or an average consumption per head per day of 24.2 gallons.

The total storage in the Kowloon gravitation reservoir on 'August 1st was 352.50 million gallons, which is the same as the total storage on the same date last year. An estimated population of 100,250 consumed 28.15 million gallons of water, giving an average consumption per head per day of 12.3 gallons. In the same month last year an estimated population of 98,400 consumed 40.74 million gallons, or 13.3 gallons per head per day.

The Government Analyst's report states that the water is of excellent quality.

COMPANY REPORT.

HONGKONG STEEL FOUNDRY CO., LIMITED.

The report of the General Managers (Messrs. Gordon & Co.) for presentation at the seventh ordinary general meeting to be held on August 15th states:—

The net profit for the year ended 31st May, 1917, after allowing for interest, auditor's fees and writing off depreciation on Company's plant, machinery, launches and stock, is \$19,817.92. This amount, together with the sum of \$19,548.62 undistributed profit brought forward from last year, makes an available balance of \$39,366.55, which it is resolved to appropriate as follows:—

To place to reserve fund \$10,000.00
To pay a dividend of \$1 per share 7,808.00
To carry forward to credit of next year's account 21,558.55

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

WOMEN IN COURT.

Before Mr. Dyer Ball at the Hongkong Magistracy, yesterday, Mrs. Everest, of Bonham Road, summoned three Chinese women for assault. There was also a cross-summons against Mrs. Everest for assaulting one of the Chinese women.

It was stated that complainant formerly lived at 53, Pokfulam Road, on the ground floor, the first floor being occupied by the Chinese. When she moved to Bonham Road, she removed the locks from the doors, but the carpenter doing the work said that the Chinese would not let him take away the patent lock from the front door. The following day complainant went to the house and the carpenter tried to take the lock off. There was a crowd of Chinese in the passage and on the stairs shouting and swearing at him. The lock had been given to complainant by a previous occupier.

Complainant alleged that she was pushed along the passage and out of the front door. She had every right to go back to the house because she had not given up the keys. She had to see Mr. Harston after the assault.

The defendants denied the assault, and the first defendant, who is the mistress of the house, alleged that she was assaulted.

The case was adjourned until Friday.

MGR. GERLACH GUILTY.

END OF ITALIAN TREASON TRIAL.

The result of the espionage and high treason trial was not unexpected (says *The Times* correspondent at Rome). The only really interesting feature in the case was the part played by Mgr. Gerlach, who betrayed his "Church" in order to serve his country as a spy and paymaster to spies, Archita, Valente, and Pomarici, were Gerlach's chief assistants and instruments, and Pomarici seems to have been the greater villain. Valente escapes the death penalty on the ground of "extenuating circumstances," and Ambrogetti seems to have been simply a channel for money payments; the others were journalistic prostitutes.

Two of the accused in the treason trial, Valente and Archita, were sentenced to penal servitude for life, and two others, Nicolosi and Raspagliesi, to five years' ordinary imprisonment. Nicolosi, who is a soldier, being in addition ordered to be degraded. Ambrogetti and Garcea were ordered three years' imprisonment.

Mgr. Gerlach was sentenced to penal servitude for life, and Pomarici was ordered to be shot. Both the latter are fugitives from justice.

WHAT AMERICANS THINK OF US.

He was sitting next to me at dinner, a tall, upright man in khaki. The different out of his uniform and the little gold sign on his shoulder straps proclaimed him to be one of the advance guard of America's coming Army. He had arrived with General Pershing. "What do you think of England to-day?" I asked him. "I am amazed and overwhelmed," the American replied. "The hospitality and kindness that meet us everywhere cannot be put in words. Just as events of the past few weeks have eliminated the international boundary between Canada and the United States, so the old formality and stiffness with which John Bull used to hedge himself seem to have vanished. I am very busy while I am here. Everywhere I meet the same reception. As soon as business is fixed up the Englishman turns to me. 'Now, apart from this business, what can I do to serve you here. Have a cup of tea? Is there anything you would like to do? Can I take you anywhere? Let me be of some use to you!'"

"I am persuaded that this war is the best thing that ever happened for England. It is going to be your salvation. I visited this country some time before war broke out. I returned to my own country mourning in the belief that England was degenerating. You were growing a rare crop of fads and fashions, warring groups. The maddest cranks had eager followings. The gulf between the classes was deep and fast. It seemed to me then that you were in danger of frittering away your great heritage."

"What do I find now? Well, I find a sanity, a clearness of vision, and a greatness that are difficult to describe. Your nation has come together. There is little agitation, little outward ferment. Nothing is so surprising as the calm. But underneath that calm is a splendour of sacrifice that would be hard to beat."

THE BRITISH CALM.

"I know a father who has lost his only two sons in the war. They were very much loved sons. But the father said to me, with steady voice: 'I am glad of the war, despite all that it has cost us. For it has taught us all real values and swept away much of the dross.' I was at dinner at a party where there was a son who had lost his arm. He was going back to the front, busy on work that a one-armed man could do there. No one was treating him as an object for pity. He had lost his arm, true. That was an incident of war. But the really important fact, in the mind of the man himself and of all the rest, was that he could still be of good service to his country."

"That is the spirit I find everywhere. Another thing is that your old class distinctions are being more wiped out. You find the private soldier and the colonel sitting at the same dinner table. Your universal service is proving a great democratic leveller. All classes are mingling in the ranks, the clerk, the banker, and the labourer standing to attention in the same company. This kind of mixing is going to transform social England."

"But it is the calm of your nation that impresses me most of all. Phlegm, they called it in Napoleon's day. You are going through this stupendous experience quietly, in matter-of-fact fashion. You revolutionise your lives, send your sons wholesale to death, strip yourselves of great possessions, and smile through it all."

"I've seen a little of your Army. What impressed me most there can be summed up in one word, Efficiency. You know we think we know something of efficiency. I learned the other day that your economy experts see that the grease in the army cookhouse wash-bowls is gathered up and turned to a profit. The fragments of dry food that are left are ground up into chicken meal. This kind of thing is going on in every section. People here seem to talk most about your mistakes. We can see what you have accomplished."

I hope my American friend will pardon me for repeating his frank and friendly words. For what he told me has been echoed by others of our American visitors. They have come among us with kindly vision and friendly voice willing and anxious to see the best side of us.—Y.A.M.

GERMANY TRADING ON WAR WEARINESS.

MR. G. N. BARNES ON PEACE INTRIGUES.

Mr. G. N. Barnes, responding to the toast "Victory to the Allies," proposed by Sir G. Riddell at the 90th anniversary dinner of the Printers' Pension Corporation, said that this was the first occasion upon which he had spoken in public since he became a member of the War Council, and he felt he must speak with circumspection. "We had arrived at a period in the progress of the war when the peoples of the world were weary of the deluge of bloodshed. It was common to all countries, but more acute in the Central Powers, whose losses were greater. They were driven back upon their own dwindling resources, and that was the cause of the conferences at Stockholm and elsewhere, of the flooding of Russia with German spies, of the efforts to sow discord between the Allies, and of the talk of tame Socialists acting as agents for the German Government, but to whose statements the German Government were in no way committed. The German Government were playing upon the war weariness of the nations. There could be no compromise; there must be no truce. There must be victory for the Allies; if the world was to be worth living in for those who were to follow us."

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

(ESTABLISHED 1850).

(TELEPHONE 1741).

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SOLE AGENTS

IN HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA FOR

GARLOCK PACKING Co.,

ENGINE PACKINGS AND JOINTINGS
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION."GARLOCK" STYLE No. 900
JOINTING,

MADE OF CANADIAN LONG FIBRE ASBESTOS.

THE BEST SHEET PACKING PRODUCED FOR
HIGH PRESSURE AND SUPERHEATED STEAM.

SIZES 1/32 TO 1/8.

"GARLOCK" SPECIAL HYDRAULIC
ROCK HARD RING PACKING.

FULL PARTICULARS AND PRICES

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LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

18

ISHERWOOD CIGARETTES.

HAND-MADE IN CAIRO.

No. 3, Large ...

\$4.50 per 100

or 2.30 " 50

No. 4, Medium ...

\$3.60 per 100

or 1.85 " 50

No. 5, Small ...

\$3.20 per 100

or 1.65 " 50

Ask your

tobaccoist

for a tin

at once.



Known all over

the world as the

most popular

Egyptian

Cigarette

of to-day.

An absolutely

first quality

Cigarette.

Recommended

by all

connoisseurs.

Obtainable at:

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FAST COLOURS.

PRINTED TABLECOVERS

CRETONNES

TAFFETAS

SEE WINDOW OR SEND FOR PATTERNS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED
NOTICE.

IN accordance with the Provisions of No. 111 of the Articles of Association of the General Managers have this day declared an INTERIM DIVIDEND for the half-year ended 30th June, 1917, of TWO DOLLARS PER SHARE.

DIVIDEND WARRANTS may be obtained on application at the Office of the Company on and after TUESDAY, 21st instant.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 10th to 20th instant both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 8th August, 1917. [929]

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of HONORA N. PEELE, late of the United States of America, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court has made an Order limiting the time for sending in Claims to or against the above Estate to the 15th day of August, 1917.

Creditors and Claimants are hereby required to send their Claims to the Undersigned by the above date.

Dated this 4th day of August, 1917.

WILKINSON & GRIST,
Solicitors for the Executor,
9, Queen's Road Central,
Hongkong. [930]

G. R.

GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC.

TENDERS for SPECIE current in SHANGHAI, up to and for the sum of \$100,000—current in Shanghai will be received by the TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT, until 11.30 o'clock a.m. on the 10th Aug., 1917.

The amount accepted is to be placed by the tenderer to the credit of an account with the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, Shanghai, so as to be available on the 11th August, 1917.

Persons tendering to state alternatively (a) The amount of Hongkong currency payable in Hongkong on 11th August required for each \$1,000—Shanghai currency and/or (b) The amount of Dollars current in Shanghai per 2100 for Telegraphic Transfer on the 11th August, 1917.

The tenders to be in duplicate, and in sealed covers, addressed to the TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT, and endorsed "TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT BILLS, etc."

The right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders is reserved.

Copies of Forms of Tender can be had on application.

"Persons tendering for (Bills) are hereby notified that having regard to the provisions of the Act 32 George III., Cap. 45 and 41, George III., Cap. 55, the acceptance of any such Tender is subject to the express condition that no Member of the British House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or part in or to any benefit to arise from the Contract thereby made for the allotment of such (Bills)."

"The provisions in question do not apply to Contracts entered into by an incorporated Company in its corporate capacity and made for the general benefit of the Company."

Any further information can be obtained by personal application to the TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, A.P.D.

F. J. THURSBY-PHAM, Lt.-Colonel,
Treasury Chest Officer, A.P.D.,
His Majesty's Treasury Office,
Hongkong, 8th August, 1917. [931]

BRITISH TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE have this day been appointed General Agents of the above Company for Fire Insurance for Hongkong and China.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
C. H. P. HAY,
per pro. General Manager.
Hongkong, 8th August, 1917. [926]

WANTED.

ONE of the Largest British Fire Insurance Companies invites applications for AGENCIES in Hongkong, Shanghai and Treaty Ports.

Apply—
Box 8,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[927]

WANTED.

LADY STENOGRAPHER and TYPIST.

Apply with References.
Box No. 131,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[928]

WANTED.

AN EXPERIENCED PRINTER, capable of taking charge of an old-established Printing Office in the Straits Settlements. One with knowledge of the working of the Linotype Machines preferred. Good prospects to competent man.

Apply, with references, and stating age, nationality, and salary required, to—
"S."
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[912]

WANTED.

ENGINEER, BRITISH, as WORKS FOREMAN. Applications with Copy References in own writing, stating age, experience and salary required. No other applications considered.

W. S. BAILEY & CO., LTD.
[921]

WANTED.

AN ENGINEER, experienced in surveying and estimating.

Apply, stating experience, etc., etc.
Box No. 3,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[906]

INTIMATIONS

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG STEEL FOUNDRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE SEVENTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, August 15th, 1917, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of presenting the Report of the General Managers, and Statement of Accounts to May 31st, 1917.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from August 9th to 14th 1917, both days inclusive.

GORDON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 8th August, 1917. [919]

THE STEAM LAUNDRY CO., LTD.

THE FIFTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Office of Sir G. P. CHATWIN, C.M.G., on SATURDAY, 18th August, 1917, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors with a Statement of Accounts to 31st May, 1917.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th August to 20th August, both days inclusive.

C. BERNARD BROWN,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 8th August, 1917. [918]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 8483 dated Hongkong 18th February, 1906, for 50 Shares numbered 54219 to 54249, 12938 to 12947, 12240 to 12249, 5186 to 5190 and 55811 to 55815 and Provisional Certificate No. 43371 dated Hongkong, 5th July, 1907, for 25 Shares numbered 88206 to 88230, all Registered in the name of Sir CARL METZ, Bart., have been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate and this Provisional Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 2nd September, 1917, new Certificates for the Shares will be issued and the aforesaid Certificate No. 43371 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STARR,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 1st August, 1917. [901]

KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AMOY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the position of "INSPECTOR OF POLICE" to the KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Amoy.

Applicants should state their age, whether married or single, and should give full particulars on the subjects of their previous experience.

A knowledge of Police duties and Hindustani are essential qualifications. Copies only of testimonials need be sent in with the application.

The successful candidate will assume office on the 1st November, 1917.

The maximum salary to be paid to such "Inspector of Police" shall be \$250.00 Amoy currency per month with an annual increase of \$20.00 per month to a final maximum of \$300.00 per month.

The term of Agreement will be three years.

Uniform, Quarters, Fuel and Light and Medical Attendance will be provided.

Applications must be endorsed "APPOINTMENT OF POLICE INSPECTOR," addressed to the Chairman, KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Amoy, and should reach Amoy not later than September 30th, 1917.

By Order of the Council,
T. W. DOBSON,
Secretary, K.M.C. [878]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

BY direction of the Government of Hongkong, Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH have received instructions to sell by Public Auction,

ON MONDAY,

the 13th day of August, 1917, at 3 P.M., at their Sales Room, 10c House Street, Victoria, Hongkong.

The Following VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY situate at Victoria, Hongkong, viz.:

All THOSE pieces or parcels of ground situate at Victoria aforesaid and known and registered in the Land Office as SECTION A OF MARINE LOT NO. 101 and SECTION B OF MARINE LOT NO. 101. Together with the messuages, erections and buildings and buildings thereon known as No. 7, Queen's Road Central, Victoria, aforesaid. Term 99 years created by a Crown Lease dated the 5th day of April, 1848.

Area in respect of Section "A" of Marine Lot No. 101—8445 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$34.44.

Area in respect of Section "B" of Marine Lot No. 101—8775 sq. ft. Proportion of Annual Crown Rent \$4.75.

For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to—

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Princes Buildings,
10c House Street, Hongkong,
Solicitors for the Liquidator of
THE DEBTORS ASSOCIATION BANK,
or to
Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH,
The Auctioneers.
Hongkong, 8th May, 1917. [918]

FOR SALE.

BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS in packets (no duplicate).

100 Stamps for \$0.75	255 Stamps for \$3.25
150 " " 1.75	275 " " 3.25
175 " " 2.25	290 " " 4.75
200 " " 2.75	281 " " 5.25

GRACA & CO.,
No. 4, WINDHAM STREET,
Hongkong.

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

FOUR ROOMS at the Upper Terrace with usual Servants' Quarters. Very convenient. Electric Light and Water Carriage System.

Apply to—
PEAK TRAMWAYS Co.
[923]

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Joe House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently recon-structed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
4c, Connaught Road Central.
[900]

TO LET.

"HOMESTEAD," No. 43, PEAK Unfurnished, immediate possession, for 3 months.

FLATS, "Wild Dell Buildings," Wanchai. HOUSES and FLATS, Gap Road.

Apply to—
SANG KEE,
Care of COMPTON'S DEPT.,
HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
[934]

TO LET.

DEVONIA, No. 8, Peak Road, SIX-ROOMED BUNGALOW, with Garden and Tennis Court.

HOUSES in Shamshau, Canton, No. 31 and 33.

Apply to—
DAVID BASSOON & Co., LTD.
[908]

TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., LTD.,
Alexandra Buildings.
[929]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 3, Connaught Road Central.

OFFICE in King's Buildings.

A HOUSE, Knutsford Terrace (Kowloon).

HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreland Terraces.

HOUSES on Shamshau, Canton.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.
[930]

WANTED.

A HOUSE or WHOLE FLOOR with about 10 Rooms in a central location.

Please apply to—
[Box No. 1,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
[927]

G. R.

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S.S. "VENEZUELA."

FROM SAN FRANCISCO, HONOLULU, JAPAN PORTS, SHANGHAI AND MANILA.

THE above-mentioned vessel having arrived from the above port, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Cargo are being landed at their risk into the Hazardous and/or extra Hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk.

Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that they must produce an Import Permit signed by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, Hongkong, before Bills of Lading can be countersigned.

All broken, chafed and damaged goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on Monday, 13th inst. at 10 A.M.

All Claims must be presented within a month of the Steamer's arrival here, after which they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns and all Goods remaining undelivered after 14th inst. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance whatever will be effected. Consignees are requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature immediately.

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO.,
E. C. MORTON,
General Agent.
Hongkong, 7th August, 1917. [909]

INTIMATION

THERE IS NOTHING MORE

REFRESHING

IN YOUR BATH

THAN

WATSON'S
HOUSEHOLD
AMMONIA.

In Bottles 75 Cts. Each.

ONLY FROM

A. S. WATSON &
CO., LTD.,

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

TELEPHONE 16

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10c, DES VŌUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 291, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 9TH AUGUST, 1917.

THE FAR EAST AND THE EMPIRE.

THE House of Commons a few days ago passed the Bill for establishing the new Ministry of Reconstruction, and it may be taken for granted the Upper House will concur in the measure. Nobody doubts the imperative need of such a Ministry, although new offices in the Government are erected with almost bewildering rapidity. After three years of war we have, in effect, an entirely new system of management for Imperial affairs; it is one which can only be regarded as a temporary arrangement made necessary by the ordeal through which the people of the Empire in general, and Great Britain in particular, are passing. It is, perhaps, as well to remind ourselves that spontaneous and wonderful as has been the self-sacrifice of the Overseas Dominions of the Crown, yet it is the people of Great Britain who are feeling the greatest anxiety, suffering the heaviest personal losses, and seeing most of the ghastly tragedy of war. We yield to none in our intense admiration of the magnificent response which has been made to the call to all sections of the Empire. It is certain that overseas, as in Britain, the dominating thought of all true citizens has been to assist in bringing the war to a successful conclusion. We have sent to the battlefield the flower of our youth, and to the old country a share of our treasure; but, except perhaps in isolated stations like East Africa, Britons Overseas live in security, are spared the heart-breaking sight of the return of the wounded, and are in no more anxiety as to their food supply. Voluntarily we give of our wealth, and we welcome the taxation which ensures that all shall contribute directly to the cost of the war; but even in the matter of taxation, we must remember how much more lightly we escape than do those at home. The unearned incomes pay a minimum of five shillings in the pound,

and Mr. McKenna recently forecasted an income-tax of eight shillings in the pound if the present colossal expenditure should continue. While, therefore, the Overseas Britons deserve all possible praise, the wonder of the war is the little island in the West, which has jettisoned some of its dearest traditions, submitted to conscription, unheard-of taxation, and the temporary sacrifice of much of its liberty in order that it may put every ounce of its strength into the struggle which shall save the soul of mankind.

What is to be the effect of all this upon the future relationship of the component parts of the Empire? We cannot imagine any scheme of reconstruction for the whole Empire which will not entail close and careful consideration from representatives of all parts of it. The new Ministry of Reconstruction is primarily concerned with Great Britain, for it has no executive authority in the Dominions, although it is always available in a consultative capacity. But when Parliament appoints a Ministry of Reconstruction, an Air Board, a Food Controller, a Minister for the Blockade, a Ministry of Munitions and even decides upon the extraordinary innovation of a Cabinet within a Cabinet, it is the electorate of Great Britain, and not the citizens Overseas, which approves of these changes. In the terror and turmoil of the awful conflagration in Europe every Briton is willing to fall into line with suggestions or schemes which promise to assist in stamping out the fires of war. There are, however, statesmen and others who are looking ahead and thinking out the problems of the reconstruction of the Empire, as well as of the rearrangement of life in Great Britain, so that when peace comes it may not find us without carefully considered plans upon which to proceed.

In this part of the world we are naturally interested in all aspects of the question. What is to be the relationship of Britons in the Far East to the new Council of Empire? We are convinced that ultimately there will be a Constitution of the States, or component parts of the Empire, united under the British Crown. It will probably be known by some such name as the British Union: The United States of America, the German Empire, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Union of South Africa have all adopted the federal principle, though there are striking distinctions noticeable in practice. Thus the working out of the principle in Germany has resulted in autocratic government, to which Germany's nearest federated neighbour, Switzerland, enjoying the fullest development of democratic institutions, presents a startling contrast. The difficulties of federation in the case of the British Empire are very much greater than those which confronted the statesmen of the countries alluded to, for the component territories are widely separated by sea and contain many different races in various stages of development with varying types of government. Nevertheless, we believe that the difficulties will be surmounted. Probably the best way of formulating a practicable scheme will be to summon, at the close of the war, an Imperial Convention. In such a Convention the Crown Colonies should be included by virtue of the fact that their combined area, population, trade and potentialities constitute a very important asset to the Empire. Assuming, for the sake of argument, a Convention numerically as large as the British House of Commons, the British Isles would have about 330 members, the Dominions 120, India 100, the Far East six, and other parts of the Empire such as Egypt, the West Indies, Central and West Africa the remainder. We do not disguise the difficulties of arriving at a fair representation for the various component parts of the Empire nor have the financial problems involved been overlooked. Our object now is to draw attention to the fact that Britons in the Far East claim the right to representation in the Councils of the Empire, not through the medium of the Secretary of State for the Colonies or even of official nominees, but by means of members chosen by the general community.

We have received a parcel of illustrated periodicals from Miss May for distribution amongst the troops.

Not a single case of communicable disease was reported in the Colony last week.

The Rev. C. L. Cooper-Hunt, C.F., desires to thank "Naval Man" for a parcel of books received.

The Hongkong Ice Company, Ltd., has declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30th of two dollars per share.

The Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Hon. Secretary of the War Charities Committee, informs us that two binoculars and two telescopes from "Anonymous" are now to be added to the list of glasses received for forwarding to the Manager of the Lady Roberts' Field Glass Fund.

A cable has been received by Mr. Coleman, of Green Island Lighthouse from the Secretary to the War Office announcing that his son, Captain F. A. Coleman, Royal Flying Corps, 32 Squadron, was admitted to the New Zealand Stationary Hospital on August 6th with a gunshot wound in the forehead and a slight injury to his left arm. Capt. Coleman left with the first contingent of Volunteers.

A Whist Drive was held by the Naval Quadrille Club on Tuesday night, but unfortunately, rain just before the time for commencement rather spoiled the attendance, only eight tables being occupied. Chief Writer Smith, who carried out the duties of M.C., handed prizes to the following at the close of play:—Ladies—1st, Mrs. Bacon; 2nd, Mrs. Mac. Men—1st, Mr. R. W. R. 2nd, Mr. B. Cousins; Consolation prize, Mr. B. Cousins.

The mass meeting of members of the Ministering Children's League, which was held at Government House last evening, was fairly well attended, there being a good sprinkling of children present. The meeting took the form of a service, hymns being sung and prayers recited, and an address, specially for the children was delivered by Lieut. S. Lee, of the Middlesex Reg., who reminded the children that one of the chief objects of membership of the M. C. L. was that the members should do at least one act of kindness each day.

A very successful concert was held at the Police Reserve Headquarters Club last evening, under the chairmanship of Mr. T. F. Hough, A.S.P. (R.). There was a large company present, and the miscellaneous programme proved a thoroughly enjoyable one. Selections were rendered by the Police Reserve Orchestra, and items were also given by Miss Esther Xavier, Miss Elfrida Osmund, Prof. Gonzales, Mr. C. H. P. Hay, and Mr. A. C. Leith, while Miss Elfrida Osmund, Prof. Gonzales and Mr. P. A. Rosario were responsible for some entertaining instrumental trios.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE DECLARATION OF WAR.

PEKING, August 8th.

Tuan Chi-jui visited Feng Kuo-chang yesterday in order to consult with him upon the political situation.

It is stated that war will be declared this week.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

A mandate has been issued making the following appointments:—Li Chun to be Tuchun of Kiangsu; Chen Kwang-yuan to be Tuchun of Kiangsi; Fu Liang-tao to be Tuchun of Honan; Wuk Wang-shin to be Commander of the Upper Yangtze and Inspector of Szechuan.

Tan Tze-kuei has asked for the pardon of Liang Shi-yi, Minister of Finance under the Presidency of Yuan Shih-kai, but Feng Kuo-chang has refused.

AMERICAN LOAN FOR CHINA.

The Chinese Minister at Washington has telegraphed stating that American capitalists will send a representative to Peking to arrange about a loan for China.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PROPOSED ALLIED LOAN TO CHINA.

TIENTSIN, August 7th.

The Acting Premier has conferred with the Allied diplomats regarding an Allied Loan to China. The Chinese Government is making the fullest military preparations.

THE WAR.

CALM IN THE WEST.

GERMAN SOLDIERS MUTINY.

ACTIVITY ON RUSSIAN FRONT.

BETTER NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

Franco-Belgian Front

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN TROOPS MUTINY.

REFUSE TO GO TO YPRES FRONT.

AMSTERDAM, August 7th.

A frontier report published in the *Telegraph* confirms the rumours of the mutiny of 300 German troops at Antwerp. They threw down their rifles when ordered to go to the Ypres front. They were quickly overpowered, and were taken to barracks, all being handcuffed.

EARLIER CABLES.

CALM ON BRITISH FRONT

LONDON, August 7th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in his daily communiqué says that he has nothing to report.

In a later report, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig says there is the usual reciprocal artillery firing.

FRUITLESS GERMAN ATTACK

PARIS, August 7th.

A communiqué states:—There is a lively artillery struggle in Belgium, particularly in the sector of Dixmude, and also north of the Aisne on the Hurbise-Craonne front. After a lively bombardment, the Germans this morning attempted an attack between Avocourt wood and the hill. A violent and well-directed fire forced the assailants to return immediately to their own trenches, with appreciable losses.

ENEMY THRU-ST.

PARIS, August 8th.

A communiqué states:—In Belgium, the artillery duel assumed a certain violence during the night. On the Meuse, the enemy attacked positions in Caubiers Wood. A small party gained a footing in the front line, but it was immediately ejected. Intermittent cannonading has been more lively to the west of Coney, near Hurbise.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, August 7th.

A German official wireless message states:—The enemy bombarded Hulluch, on the Scarpe. We gained prisoners and booty to the north of the Laon-Soissons road, near Berry au Bac.

WEATHER ASSISTING GERMANS.

LONDON, August 7th.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, states:—The Boches have much to be grateful for, as the weather is causing the British and French more trouble than any conceivable counter-attack. A French officer states that the French troops have been holding out in shell-holes of mud and water, soaked to the skin. Attempts to connect the shell-craters produce miniature canals. The men have lived for four days on the food they carried, but these men are from Lille, Tourcoing and other towns under the heel of the Hun, and neither fire nor water can quench their ardour while the Germans remain in Flanders.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ANOTHER OUTRAGE.

MADRID, August 7th.

In connection with the Spanish fishing boat outrage, Senor Dato stated that the submarine Commander had explained that it was due to mistaken nationality. The Government was protesting energetically to Berlin.

One of the wounded men has died.

GERMANY AND HOSPITAL SHIPS.

EARLIER CABLES.

LONDON, August 7th.

Reuter's correspondent at Madrid states that as a result of Spanish representations Germany has agreed to give safe conduct to hospital ships provided Spanish naval officers are aboard and there is a guarantee that only sick and wounded will be carried.

Russian front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ENEMY REVERSE REPORTED

PETROGRAD, August 7th.

It is reported that the enemy has been thrown back from Khotin, on a front of fifteen versts.

GERMAN ADMISSIONS.

LONDON, August 7th.

A German official wireless message states:—We continue to advance in the Sereth and Suczav Valleys and mountains, despite stubborn resistance. Roumanian attacks in the Putna Valley severely broke down. Prussians and Bavarians stormed Russian positions to the north of Focsani, capturing 1,300 prisoners and thirteen guns.

GERMAN ATTACKS BEATEN OFF.

LONDON, August 7th.

A Russian official wireless message states:—There is intense enemy artillery firing to the south-west of Brody. The enemy is gathering the harvest in the Sereth and Suczav Valleys. The enemy continues his pressure, occupying Vaskovey, Sataluvar, Burla and Molit, also heights to the north of Molit, in the direction of Kimpoling. We beat off several attacks in this region, forcing the enemy to retire in disorder. We repulsed attacks to the west of Dzelin. We retired a few versts in the region of the Bistriz River, owing to the voluntary retirement of two regiments. The enemy took the offensive in the direction of Focsani, and pressed us back across the Eyrlandes River.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

DEALING WITH PROFITTEERING.

LONDON, August 7th.

The Premier has informed the Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain that inter-trading between members of the Produce Exchange will be prohibited, thereby stopping profiteering in the wholesale markets.

UNJUSTIFIABLE HONOURS.

LONDON, August 7th.

In the House of Lords, Lord Selborne called attention to the wide belief that honours were sometimes awarded unjustifiably, and suggested that whenever an honour was conferred on anyone except Royalty, members of the Navy, Military and Civil Service, the reasons therefore should be attached. Secondly, the Prime Minister should assure the Sovereign that no payment, or expectation of payment, was in any way associated with the recommendation. Lord Selborne said that both political Parties were tarred with the same brush.

Lord Crewe admitted that in some of the recent honours strong exception had been taken.

Lord Curzon said the honours had much democratized recently, and this was one of the best safeguards against abuse. The discussion then dropped.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

THE NATIONAL CABINET.

PETROGRAD, August 7th.

It is noteworthy that all five Parties, including the Cadets, who participated at the conference on August 3rd which passed a note of confidence in M. Kerensky, are included in the National Cabinet. The following are the outstanding appointments:—M. Savinkov, Assistant War Minister, who was prominent at the front in promoting an offensive and combating demoralisation in the army; M. Lebedev, Assistant Minister of Marine, a Lieutenant in the French Army who has had previous experience in the Ministry of Marine. M. Nekrasoff and M. Terestchenki are the only two, excepting M. Kerensky, who belonged to the original Provisional Government. The former was nine years in the Duma and on the Budget Committee. M. Tseretelli declined office, but promised the Cabinet all his assistance. M. Avskentseff, Minister of the Interior, is President of the Executive of the Pressants' Delegates. The Cabinet includes four Cadets.

EARLIER CABLES.

LONDON, August 7th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Leo Chiozza Money stated that the first standard ship would be completed in August. It would have a deadweight capacity of 5,000 tons. It was not desirable to give the speed.

RECRUITING.

LONDON, August 7th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Cabinet accepted the principle of the transfer of responsibility for recruiting to civilian control.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN EAST AFRICA.

LONDON, August 7th.

An East Africa official message states:—After occupying the enemy's advanced positions to the south-west of Lindi, we indecisively attacked the main positions on the Mihumbia. There was severe fighting, and considerable losses were suffered by both sides. We reached the Vaindyo River in the Kilwa area. We are pressing back the enemy towards Mahenge, a strong force being engaged to the south thereof.

ALLIED GATHERING IN LONDON.

LONDON, August 7th.

M. Ribot, Baron Sonnino, M. Pashitch and other representatives of the Allies conferred with Mr. Lloyd George and other members of the War Cabinet and Ministers at Downing Street.

GERMANY AND BELGIUM.

INTERESTING STATEMENT.

LONDON, August 8th.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil stated that, as far as he was aware, the German Government had been careful not to remind the world that it expressly promised, in 1914, to Great Britain that it would not, under any pretence whatever, annex Belgian territory, but from the tenour of communications emanating from sources, apparently inspired, this was a promise which if they could, they proposed to repudiate. Replying to the suggestion that the new German Government should be asked whether they adhered to this pledge, Lord Robert Cecil said that the British Government had no means of communicating with the German Government.

VICTORIA'S £100,000 FOR THE RED CROSS.

The Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John has recently received, through the Australian branch of the British Red Cross, the sum of £100,000 contributed by the people of Victoria. This is the first result of an appeal organized throughout the State of Victoria by Lady Stanley, wife of Sir Arthur Stanley, the Governor and President of the Victoria Division of the Australian Red Cross.

The appeal was launched at the beginning of May, and the earliest donations included 18 of £1,000 each. On the opening day the list reached £24,370, and within a fortnight the receipts amounted to £70,000, a sum which grew rapidly to the round figure now remitted as a preliminary. On previous occasions the people of Victoria have done much for the Red Cross.

THE MOUSE IN THE SHELL-HOLE.

NATURE IN THE FIGHTING ZONE.

The following is taken from a letter written by an officer in France:—

I am writing this in a dug-out, where I have been for a few days. I believe there are birds' nests on the top of this humble dwelling; anyhow, I often hear the birds twittering away and every morning a lark gets up just outside and sings away merrily. The weather is beautiful and every one is fit and well.

I remember remarking in one of my letters home how the effect of our intense bombardment is so tremendous that one wonders whether anything in the earth is left alive. That was in the winter. Now that spring is here one sees that practically everything in the old mother earth is as vigorously alive as ever. Man's work goes to pieces, but even the most intense shelling is but a mere scratch on the surface of the earth. The birds live their life just the same and field mice and other small creatures make their homes and play about in shell-holes. Swallows are flying overhead, magpies hop about on trees and ruined shanties as cheekily as possible. The other day I was startled by a whirr of wings, and a couple of partridges got up from some hiding place, and whizzed across the broken-up ground.

Everywhere the green grass is shooting up through the earth; even trees which seem to have been stripped to mere bare poles are now sending out twigs and leaves. Many craters and huge shell-holes are full of young plants; ever-budding ivy and other creepers sprouting afresh and gradually covering the ruined heap. So the normal life of nature goes on, practically normally, in spite of high explosive and poisoned gas and other devilish inventions. I think that this big fact is one of the things that keep men sane under trying conditions—the fact that the face of nature hasn't altered.

I remember some while ago sitting in a shell-hole; it was the place I had chosen for my work, and I was some days and nights there. The "show," during which the earth seemed little more than a chaos of flaming and bursting shells, was over—that is to say, the "showing" had become no more than the usual continuous but intermittent booming. I was resting, feeling very done up with excitement and fatigue. Presently I heard a small sound, and saw a little spot of earth being pushed up from beneath. I watched, and a little field mouse appeared, his tiny, beady eyes looking at me alertly. I kept still, and he hopped out and played about, and presently the little beggar was frisking about at the bottom of the shell-hole. I don't know what he was doing, but I found that he was not interfered with by the great guns, but crawled round the collar of a man who was asleep, much to the amusement of the others who were with me. I blessed that little field mouse; I think he made every one feel cheerful, playing about in the early morning after our hard night's work.—Times.

TRAPPED IN A TUNNEL.

GERMANS CONSTRUCT THEIR TOMB.

Typical of the enormous power of the German defensive organisations in Champagne is the Mont Cornillet Tunnel, which, after a resistance of weeks, fell to the French as the result of the last brilliant attack on the summit.

The tunnel had been cut clean through the hill with the object of feeding the southern side in case of attack. Three battalions could be sheltered with supplies and munitions enough to stand a siege of ten days. Three entrances connected by galleries, with a transverse by gallery within the hill, gave access to the tunnel on the southern slope of the crest. The tunnel was ventilated by shafts opening on the hill, and the air in the galleries was kept moving by powerful fans.

For weeks no progress could be made against the hill in face of a stream of perfectly fresh troops which the Germans were able to launch at any minute from safe shelter within the tunnel. The final attack was postponed until it was possible to concentrate enough artillery of the heaviest calibre to wreck at least the entrances of the tunnel and render it unusable. The rain of shells was maintained night and day around the entrances, so that the German sappers were unable to work on or even to approach them. One big shell struck the ventilation shaft above the point, from which the inner galleries radiate, and wrecked the entire place, including the commandant's quarters, besides choking up the galleries and asphyxiating a large number of the garrison. At that moment the garrison numbered about 600 infantry, two machine gun companies, and four sections of sappers, medical, wireless and other details. The troops were led by two battalion commanders, both of whom were killed by this shell. When some hours later the French infantry swept over the crest, the tunnel was entirely cut off, and the whole garrison either crushed, asphyxiated, or captured.

The German officer commanding in front finding no help came from the tunnel, went to see what had happened. He found the entrances choked with fallen earth and dead men, and no sign of life coming from within. While investigating the damage he was captured with a number of his men by the French. This is the third instance during the recent fighting in which, as in the case at Chevreux and on the California Plateau, the tunnels of these subterranean fortresses in which, if anywhere, the Germans might have thought themselves safe have become the tomb of their garrisons.

GOOD-BYE TO THE YPRES SALIENT.

A LETTER TO FRITZ.

[BY AN OFFICER ON LEAVE.]

My dear Fritz,—The familiar use of your Christian name argues no undue familiarity on my part. I employ it because, were formerly the name spoke Prince, who won and won an English Princess to our Empire in arms. It now signifies the enemy.

I am writing to you, Fritz, as to the man on the other side of No Man's Land, and quite distinct from your brother at home, because the occasion of my letter is an event with which you are by this thoroughly acquainted, but which your Government has glossed over for domestic consumption. I refer to the death of the Ypres Salient.

The salient was a good friend to you, Fritz, but not always. You have probably not forgotten that rainy October of 1914 when, amid mud and blood and anguish, it was born. Do you remember the scenes at Roulers and Moorslede and Menin, the dense columns of your enthusiastic comrades pressing forward from the capture of Antwerp to drive a way through our silly Army, through the disorganised Belgians, through the beaten French, to the Channel ports?

Fritz, you were a good trier. You tried at Langemark, to the north, at Zandvoorde, to the south of Ypres, and along the Menin road, to blast the passage to the sea. The Supreme War Lord himself came up to Roulers—or was it Menin?—to emphasise his imperial command that the road to Calais must be forced at all costs. You had the guns, you had the men, Fritz, many more guns and many more men than we; but you didn't get through. Your Westfalians and your Württembergers, and all the rest of them, came on in their thousands; your unfledged recruits advanced hand-in-hand, piping in their boys' voices your soldier songs; but you never reached the sea. Even your Guards, doing the parade step into battle along the Menin road, sent in as the supreme effort when all else had failed, achieved no more than the rest of you against the haggard, dirty shadows of men who had fought without respite for men on a month.

I don't want to buck, Fritz, because, God knows, you nearly succeeded. You never realised until months afterwards, did you, how near you were to victory on October 31st, 1914? The U-boat menace you talk so much about was not in it with the peril that threatened the British Empire between the hours of two and three o'clock in the afternoon of that day when you had punched a hole in the 1st Division line and thousands of you were surging forward to flow through the gap. But we foiled you again, Fritz; the Westcoasters went in with the bayonet and recaptured Gheluvelt, and the road to Calais was "a pox."

Still, despite your awful losses, you didn't do so badly. You managed to collar all the rising ground (such as it is in these flat Flanders plains), the Pilsken Ridge, the Messines-Wytschate Ridge; north and south of Ypres you bent our line back so far that at the end of this great battle it was like a tightly sprung bow spanned about Ypres. You had the high ground, the dry ground; we had the plain, the water, and the mud. You could dig nice, secure trenches which you cleverly managed to drain into ours; we had to build up, painfully, by night, earthworks which you, having the observation, promptly spotted and demolished with your guns in the morning.

It must have been a bully time for you, Fritz. You held all the trumps, superiority of position, of observation, of shells. You were as safe as a cruel little boy sitting on a high wall and chucking stones at an invalid in a chair in the garden below. No wonder you used your lines in front of Ypres as a training school for young gunner officers!

You used to shell us left, front, and centre. From the Messines Ridge you could peer right in behind us as we sat, as cheerfully as we might, behind our crumbling sandbags. How your *Heeres Artillerie* (who have such a special sense of humour, Fritz) must have laughed to see us patching on our potty little parcels of the British race stretching in front of shattered Ypres!

But we held on, Fritz. You think we are a stupid race. Perhaps we are, if that means we do not know when we are beaten. And you did your best, in your ingenious, plodding way, to make life in the salient a hell on earth for our men. You shelled us by night; you shelled us by day. You pumped shrapnel into us filing up to the trenches; you scattered high-explosive shells over all the roads; you lobbed those infernal and terrifying "Minnies" into our front line or scarched it up; and down with noisy black five-point-nines. And when you had blown down the parapet so tellfully built in the night your snipers laid on the gaps and, Fritz, they took their toll.

GERMAN MISTAKES.

"The Germans will go down to history as people who foresaw everything except what actually happened, and calculated everything except its cost to themselves." This remark of Sir Frederick Pollock has moved the well-known English naval critic, Arthur Pollen, to write interestingly of "Germany's Lost Opportunity" in a recent number of *Land and Water*.

Mr. Pollen's text is that "the most remarkable thing about the naval war is that it took the Germans by surprise." In other words, the Germans thought that they could conquer France and Russia without arousing the belligerence of England, and later, at leisure, reinforced by their earlier victory, could find a way of dealing with Britain and her fleet. This writer's analysis of what might have happened, and Germany correctly diagnosed the mood of the British people and counted on England as an immediate foe, makes one shudder. He declares that though the public has not yet realised the fact, in August, 1914, because of the absence of some British ships in foreign waters and the absence of others in drydock, Germany and Austria might have attacked the available British ships with a force barely five per cent. inferior to the naval strength of the Islanders. More horrible yet to imagine, the writer depicts how Germany might easily have wiped out more than this margin of superiority by a surprise attack of submarines; and how she then might have risked a decisive battle with her own fleet, and, if successful, have lured a force of 100,000 or 150,000 men on British shores. The point is that Germany tried none of these things, not because of any moral compunctions—the absence of which she demonstrated in Belgium—but solely because of her stupid confidence that "defeated" England would not dare to enter the war at the beginning. This failure of German statesmanship correctly to diagnose the future is not the only instance of the sort. In preparing for what they think will happen the Germans met with the marvellous thoroughness which has made their efficiency proverbial, but as diviners of what actually does happen they might do a good deal better. They were prepared in every material way for subduing the resistance of Belgium, but they ignored entirely the material results of the world's indignation at their treatment of Albert's little kingdom. Especially they err in underestimating the importance of psychological factors.

The latest example of this shortsightedness is seen in connection with Germany's submarine campaign. When they first considered using their U-boats in the present ruthless manner the Germans were aware that this would annoy America and other neutrals, but they were confident that this annoyance and indignation would fall short of expression in belligerent retaliation. Later, when the United States declared war, the German leaders told their people, "Oh, it doesn't matter, the Americans can't do anything anyway." Now, when it has become apparent that the Americans can do much, and have every intention of doing much, the German leaders assure the people that before the bulk of the American army can get to France, the submarines will have ended the war. What lie will remain to be used to stave off the indignation of the Teutonic peoples when the real strength of America begins to be felt we do not see.

For a people who are so wonderfully far-sighted in regard to little details the Germans are often astonishingly weak in vision when it comes to foreseeing the big moves in the game.

THE BANNED MISSION TO RUSSIA.

RAILWAYMEN AGAINST THE SEAMEN.

At the annual general meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, recently, Mr. J. Gore moved a resolution expressing regret at the action of the Seafarers and Firemen's Union in refusing to man a ship to convey Messrs. Ramsay MacDonald, Jowett, and Fairclough to Russia. Mr. G. H. Sherwood seconded. Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., said he knew of no other incident that had so definitely challenged the trade-union position. He would say this of Mr. MacDonald—that no man was more capable of judging international questions. If the action of the seamen and firemen was correct, then it would be equally right for railwaymen to refuse to carry shipowners, colliery proprietors, and cotton magnates in cases of dispute. The action of the seamen and firemen meant anarchy; it meant ruin to the country and damnation to trade unionism. The excuse about justice to the seamen and firemen was the most flimsy of all. No one would more readily demand that justice than the men against whom this action was taken on this occasion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Salient is flattened out; that the guns which were wont to make life so disagreeable for us are either in our hands or are buried under tons of earth; that you can no longer pry into the rear of our lines in front of Ypres; that rather than be looking down into the different trenches in the plain, back to which you have been driven.

Now the laugh is with us. And Fritz, we have a lot to pay back. There is scarcely a Briton but has a relative or friend who is slumbering somewhere between Rosings and the Hill of Kemmel. You made things so hard for them that many must have been glad to go to their rest. But I feel sure they smiled in their last sleep when they heard the story of the Seventh of June.

Fritz, I think you're "for it." Hoping to meet you soon again, LEANDER.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

In the Daily Mail.

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"MANILA MARU" ... THURSDAY, 16th Aug. at 3 P.M.
"CHICAGO MARU" ... TUESDAY, 28th Aug. at 3 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

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FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Yung-Tsin, via Swatow and Amoy.

"AMAKUSA MARU" ... THURSDAY, 9th Aug. at Noon.
"KAIJO MARU" ... FRIDAY, 10th Aug. at Noon.
"BOSHI MARU" ... THURSDAY, 16th Aug. at 9 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 74 will be used.

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